

F-5-75

Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church
Mt. Airy vicinity
Private

1897

The Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church is minimally significant for the still-discernible L-shaped plan of its original form and the decorative trim on the gables and bell tower. Its brick walls and Gothic arched windows are still intact, although changes were made in 1962 in the addition of a large brick veneer education wing on the west elevation and the closure of one of the original doorways in the bell tower. The adjoining cemetery is moderately significant for the number and variety of headstones from the period 1850 to 1920, including at least one cast iron monument, marble and granite columns, obelisks, and others with carved symbolic motifs, an unusual characteristic among rural church cemeteries of the period in Frederick County.

F-5-75
Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church
Mt. Airy
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use:
Religion/religious facility/church

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common Prospect United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 5900 block Woodville Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Mt. Airy ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Prospect United Methodist Church

street & number c/o 5923 Woodville Road telephone no.:

city, town Mt. Airy state and zip code MD 21771

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-5-75

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 2

The Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-story brick church built in 1897 in a picturesque Gothic Revival style with an L-shaped plan, featuring a bell tower/entrance in the angle, and altered in 1962 with a two-story brick veneer addition adjoining the west elevation. The church has a cemetery on the north and east sides with several elaborate and unusual examples of headstones in marble, granite, and cast iron. The church and cemetery are located on the east side of Woodville Road about 200 yards north of the intersection of Old Annapolis Road near Mt. Airy, Frederick County, Maryland. The church has a paved parking lot west of the building, the site of a schoolhouse in the 19th century which has been demolished. A non-contributing one-story building with artificial siding is located south of the church. The date of the church is inscribed on a marble stone at the base of the bell tower at the southwest corner.

The original form of the church has been partially obscured by the 1962 addition, but on the south elevation, the corner angle with the bell tower is still clearly discernible. The brick is 7:1 American bond and the roof is covered with composition material. The eaves are extended with small decorative brackets at the corners. At the gable peaks on the west and south elevations are decorative bargeboards. The south elevation has a large Gothic arched window with tracery, muntins and colored glass. The bell tower originally had entrance doors on both the south and west sides; during the 1962 alterations, the south entrance was filled in with light colored brick and the west doors were replaced with modern glass and anodized aluminum doors. Above the doorway and the former opening on the south are Gothic arched transoms and circular "rose" windows. The belfry is enclosed with louvres and decorative trim. The steeple roof is covered with composition. The east elevation of the church has four bays with sliding 2/2 sash in colored, textured glass. The interior of the church was inaccessible for this survey.

In the adjoining cemetery, the variety of headstones date from about 1847, the earliest noted death date, to the present. There are several stones in marble and granite with symbolic motifs of trees, lambs, floral compositions, obelisks, urns, and a considerable number with paired columns joined by an arch at the top. A cast iron monument with paired arched tablets was also observed.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-5-75

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1897

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church is minimally significant in architecture for its exterior decoration and form. Although altered by a 1962 addition and the replacement of some of its original materials, the general outline of an L-shaped church with a corner tower and entrance is still visible. In the adjoining cemetery are a large number of artistically varied headstones of the period about 1850-1920, unusual for rural church cemeteries of Frederick County.

Little history about the Prospect M. E. Church was discovered in the current survey. The dated stone in the present church reads 1853-1897 and both the 1858 and 1873 maps of Frederick County show a church on the site called Prospect. Land records and the maps indicate that a schoolhouse was located just west of the original church building. The earliest deed to the M. E. church trustees is 1814, suggesting that the present 1897 building is the second or third church on the site.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-5-75

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.
Land Records of Frederick County
Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acresQuadrangle name Libertytown, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres on Tax Map 81, parcel marked with + and Parcel 75 (cemetery)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date April 1994street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state MD 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: ~~Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438~~

10001
CROWNSVILLE
3/22/94

Liber/Folio

Grantee

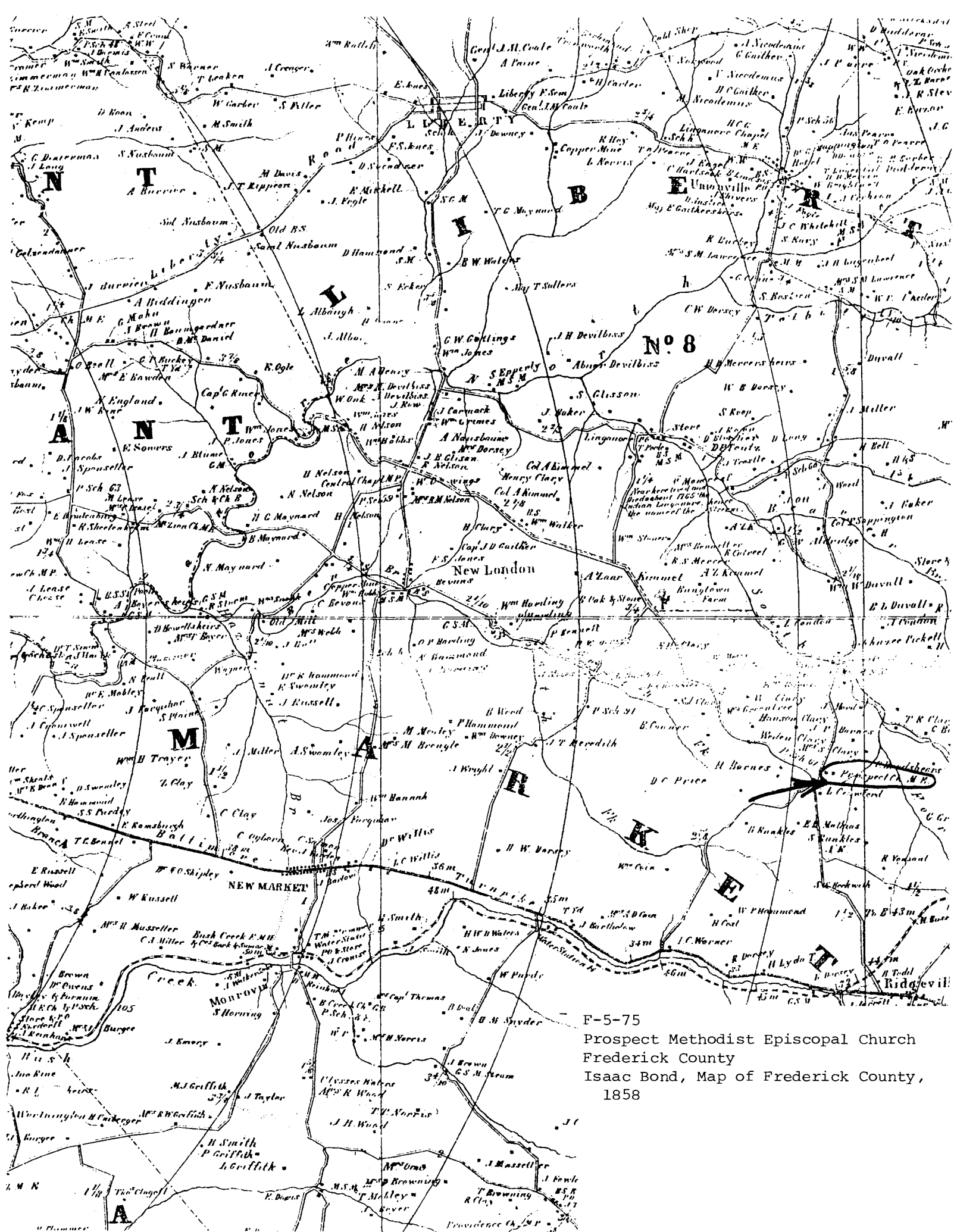
Grantor

Lot Size, Description,
Original Tracts,
Miscellaneous

Cost

[illegible]

F-5-75

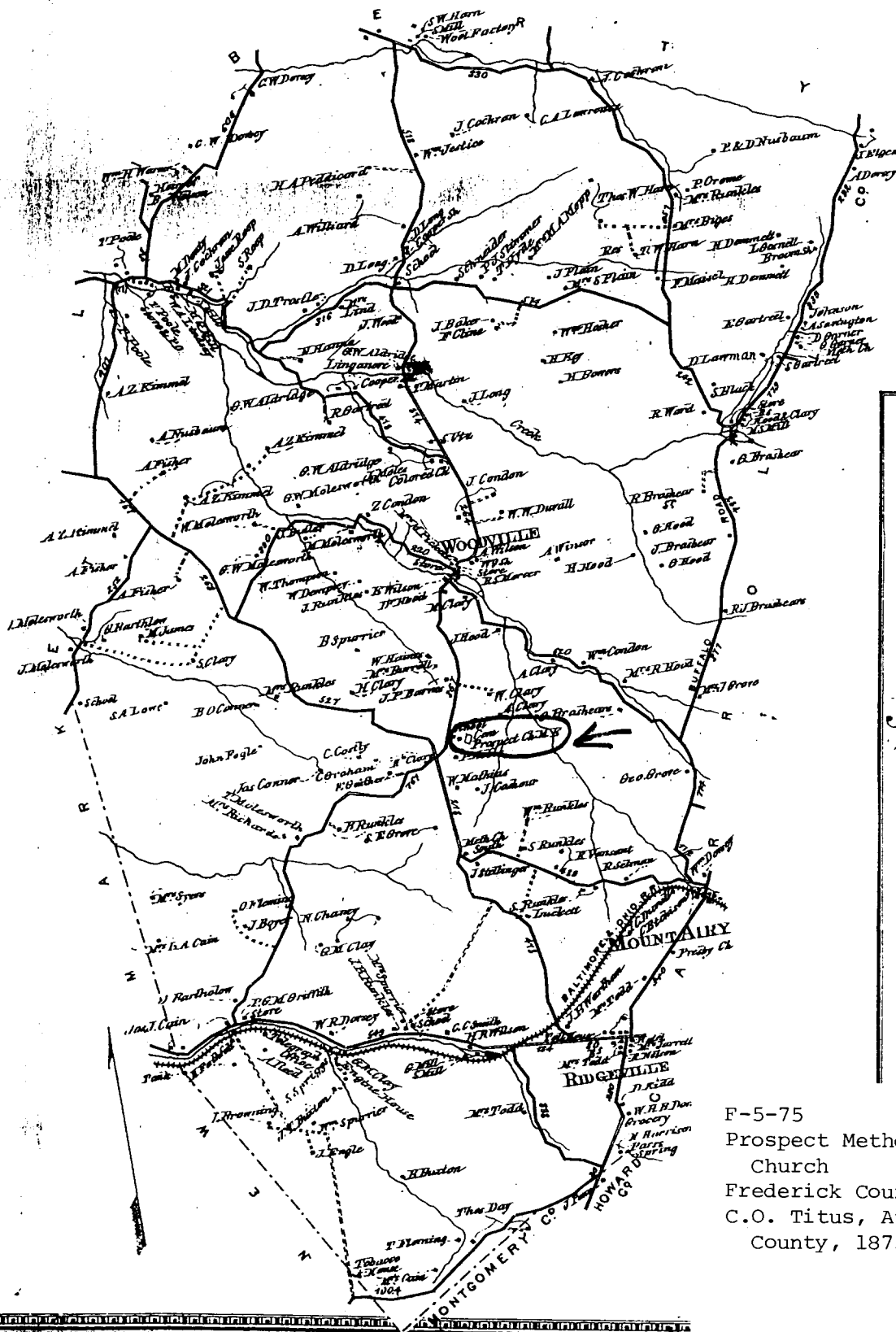


F-5-75

Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County,
1858

WOODVILLE DIST No. 18

Scale 1 1/2 Inches to the Mile



JOHN

John

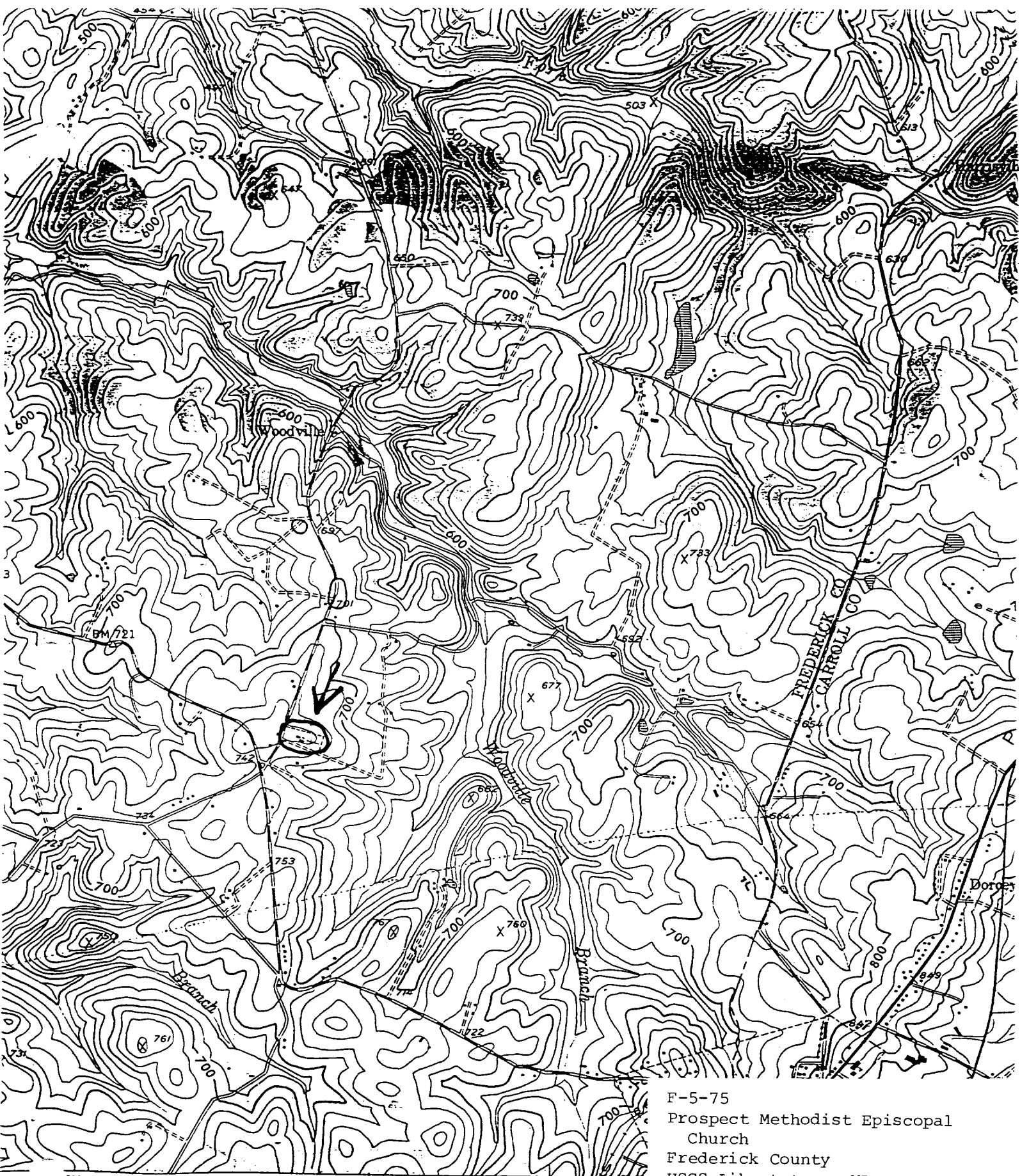
Scale 3/4

F-5-75

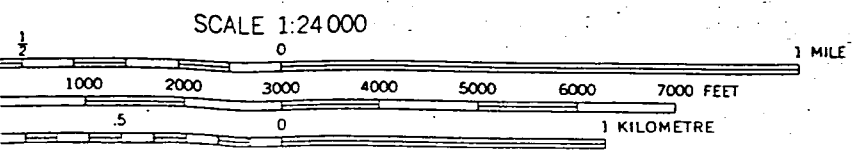
Prospect Methodist Episcopal
Church

Frederick County

C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873



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Prospect Methodist Episcopal
Church
Frederick County
USGS Libertytown, MD
1:24000





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Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Dours

April 1994

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md
Southwest Corner View

1/2



F. 5-75

Prospect Methodist Episcopal Church

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1994

Neg. loc: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

General view in cemetery

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